

Making Peace With Nature:

*A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and
pollution emergencies*

THE 'SYNTHESIS REPORT'

Background and Mandate

The mandate is from [UNEA4 resolution 23](#) (para 7) requesting “..a science-policy input on the global environment, in consultation with Member States and making use of contributions from relevant stakeholders, in commemoration of the creation of UN Environment Programme...”. This report is a first contribution to fulfil this mandate.

The report synthesises the findings of latest major global assessments. It translates the current state of scientific knowledge into crisp, clear and digestible facts-based messages that the world can relate to and follow up on.

It includes reference to the covid19 pandemic; it reiterates the scientific basis for the UN ‘*building back better*’ and *green recovery* plans; it underpins the new UNEP MTS.

Progress updates were regularly provided to Member States within reports and briefing notes on Resolution 4/23 and on UNEP@50 preparations.

MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE

Transforming nature puts human well-being at risk

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (1970-2020):

- ▶ The economy has grown nearly fivefold and trade tenfold
- ▶ Human population has doubled to 7.8 billion
- ▶ Still, 1.3 billion people are poor and 700 million hungry

DISPOSALS OF WASTE MATTER:

- ▶ Greenhouse gas emissions have doubled
- ▶ Chemical production, waste and pollution have increased

USE OF SPACE AND RESOURCES:

- ▶ Resource use has tripled
- ▶ Humans impact 3/4 of ice-free land and 2/3 of oceans

Transforming humankind's relationship with nature is the key to a sustainable future

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (2020 -):

- ▶ Sustainable economic and financial systems
- ▶ Healthy nutritious food and clean water and energy
- ▶ Healthy lives and well-being for all in safe cities and settlements

DISPOSALS OF WASTE MATTER:

- ▶ Net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050
- ▶ Management of chemicals, waste and pollution

USE OF SPACE AND RESOURCES:

- ▶ Recycling of resources
- ▶ Protection and sustainable use of land and oceans

Earth's capacities to

- ▶ support life
- ▶ provide resources
- ▶ absorb waste matter

ARE DEGRADED AND SURPASSED

RISK to:

Livelihoods, equity, health, economic development, peace, food, water, sanitation, safe cities and settlements

Earth's capacities to

- ▶ support life
- ▶ provide resources
- ▶ absorb waste matter

ARE RESTORED AND ADAPTED TO

SUPPORT for:

Poverty elimination, equity, health, economic development, peace, food, water, sanitation, safe cities and settlements





Lead Advisor: Sir Bob Watson

The Team

53 experts from 27 countries from all UN regions, 20 women, 33 men. Involved in all major global assessments.



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Timeline

Team established
[Feb 2020]

*shifted to 100% on-line
modality*

Three Rounds of
drafting and Peer
Review

[Mar-Oct 2020]

Report finalization
and editing

[Nov 2020 – Jan
2021]

Report Launch

Feb 22nd 2021

Report's Launch

Currently planned for February 22nd , 2021 at UNEA-5

Various communications asset under development including:

- Several videos
- multi-lingual media packages (in all UN Languages)
- FAQ on report for media
- social media promotion
- stories and written content
- interactive web story
- google search optimization
- Dedicated UNEP webpage (already active):
<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-assessments-sythesis-report-path-to-sustainable-future>



Structure of the report

Key
Messages

Executive
Summary

Main Text



PART I.
TRANSFORMING NATURE PUTS
HUMAN WELL-BEING AT RISK

The current mode of development degrades the Earth's finite capacity to sustain human well-being.

Society is failing to meet most of its commitments to limit environmental damage.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is threatened by an array of escalating and mutually reinforcing environmental risks.

There is an urgent need for a clear break with current trends of environmental decline and the coming decade is crucial.

PART II.

TRANSFORMING HUMANKIND'S RELATION WITH NATURE IS THE KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Human knowledge, ingenuity, technology and cooperation can transform societies and economies and secure a sustainable future

Earth's environmental emergencies should be addressed together to achieve sustainability

Economic and financial systems can and should be transformed to lead and power the shift to sustainability

The food, water and energy systems can and should be transformed to meet growing human needs in an equitable, resilient and environmentally friendly manner

Keeping the planet healthy is key to providing health and well-being for all

Everyone has a part to play in transforming social and economic systems for a sustainable future

Making Peace With Nature: Core Messages

- *The well-being of today's youth and future generations depends on an **urgent and clear break with current trends of environmental decline**. The coming decade is crucial. Society needs to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels and reach net zero emissions by 2050 to achieve the 1.5°C Paris Agreement target, while at the same time conserving and restoring biodiversity and minimizing pollution and waste.*
- *Earth's **environmental emergencies and human well-being need to be addressed together** to achieve sustainability. The development of the goals, targets, commitments, and mechanisms under the key environmental conventions and their implementation need to be aligned to become more synergistic and effective.*
- *The economic, financial and productive systems can and should be transformed to lead and power the shift to sustainability. Society needs to **include natural capital in decision-making**, eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and invest in the transition to a sustainable future.*
- ***Everyone has a role to play** in ensuring that human knowledge, ingenuity, technology and cooperation are redeployed from transforming nature to transforming humankind's relationship with nature. Polycentric governance is key to empowering people to express themselves and act environmentally responsibly without undue difficulty or self-sacrifice.*

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For the latest information on this report:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-assessments-synthesis-report-path-to-sustainable-future>



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